

WHAT'S *New*

in the Metropolitan Police Department



*A weekly update for residents, visitors,
and workers in the District of Columbia*

Friday, April 16, 2004

DC TO JOIN IN COMMEMORATION OF NATIONAL CRIME VICTIMS' RIGHTS WEEK

DC will be joining communities across the nation, April 18-24, to commemorate National Crime Victims' Rights Week (NCVRW)—a time to remember the victims of crime and to raise public awareness of victims' rights and services. This year marks the 24th anniversary of the official commemoration of NCVRW, which is celebrated nationwide by crime victims, survivors and those who serve them. It is also the 20th anniversary of the passage of the Victims of Crime Act, which in 1984 established the Crime Victims Fund to provide support for victim services through fines and fees levied against federal offenders. The theme for 2004 NCVRW is "Victims' Rights: America's Values." The MPDC will be highlighting some of its recent victim service initiatives, including the establishment of the Family Liaison Specialist Unit, which provides outreach, information and support to the survivors of homicide victims in DC. In addition, the MPDC will be releasing its latest survey of crime victims in the city, which measures victims' perceptions of police service and helps to identify areas where improvements in service may be needed. Attorney General Ashcroft will lead the National Observance and Candlelight Vigil on April 21, at the US Chamber of Commerce in Northwest.

- ① For more information about National Crime Victims' Rights Week, visit:
www.ojp.usdoj.gov/ovc
- ① Learn more about the mission and services of the MPDC's Family Liaison Specialist Unit at:
<http://mpdc.dc.gov/about/units/fls.shtml>
- ① For information about other victims' rights and services in DC—including DC's Crime Victim Compensation Program—visit:
<http://mpdc.dc.gov/serv/victims/victims.shtml>

MPDC, ABRA CONTINUE TO TARGET UNDERAGE DRINKING THROUGH ONGOING COMPLIANCE CHECKS

As part of DC's continuing effort to combat underage drinking—and the public safety and health problems that it creates—the MPDC and the Alcoholic Beverage Administration (ABRA) are once again conducting compliance checks at liquor establishments throughout DC. On March 25, ABRA, the MPDC and the National Capital Coalition to Prevent Underage Drinking (NCCPUD) participated in training on reducing alcoholic beverage sales to underage buyers. Sponsored and conducted by the federal Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, the training session included 12 youth advocates from NCCPUD who trained with ABRA Investigators and MPDC officers on conducting compliance investigations in DC. The youth advocates, who are from various high schools in DC and range in age from 14 to 18, were trained to operate as underage buyers for the purchase of alcoholic beverages from licensed establishments in DC. Later that evening, ABRA investigators and MPDC officers accompanied the trained youth advocates on mock compliance checks at approximately a dozen restaurants and other establishments that sell and serve liquor. Forty percent of the establishments visited sold alcoholic beverages to minors, including a well known restaurant that sold alcoholic beverages to four youths without checking for IDs. Afterward, the enforcement team explained to the restaurant manager that had this been an actual compliance check, the manager could have been cited, arrested and fined. The newly trained youth advocates and enforcement teams will be conducting regular compliance checks at establishments over the coming months.

- ① Read the news release at:
<http://www.mpdc.org/blue/news.asp?sid=2649>
- ① For more information about the work of ABRA, visit:
www.abra.dc.gov
- ① April is Alcohol Awareness Month. For more information about the activities of the NCCPUD this month and throughout the year, go to:
www.nccpud.com

WARMER WEATHER BRINGS RETURN OF OPEN-AIR MINISTATIONS TO THE STREETS OF DC

Each Spring, warmer weather in DC brings out more than flowers and tourists: it also means the return of the MPDC's Open-Air MiniStations. Open-Air MiniStations are highly visible, picnic-table-and-chair sets that serve as outdoor, portable police facilities. Each police district has at least one MiniStation. The MiniStations are temporarily placed in different communities for varying periods of time, so the MPDC can deter criminal activity and better serve residents and visitors. The MiniStations serve two main purposes: (1) to let drug dealers, gang members and other criminals know that illegal activity will not be tolerated in the community, and (2) to help law-abiding residents with information and assistance for building a safe and healthy neighborhood. At each MiniStation, residents can file a police report, provide information about crime and disorder problems in their community, and obtain information about MPDC programs and services.

MPDC'S PHOTO ENFORCEMENT PROGRAMS SHOW CONTINUED REDUCTIONS IN AGGRESSIVE DRIVING

The latest data from the MPDC's photo enforcement programs show continued reductions in aggressive driving in those areas where traffic safety cameras are deployed. The MPDC's red-light cameras captured approximately 12,000 violations during March 2004, a reduction of more than 25,000 violations a month since the start of the program at the 39 intersections equipped with cameras. Similarly, aggressively speeding is down more than 80 percent in the enforcement zones where mobile photo radar cameras have been deployed. Last month, a record 1.4 million vehicles were monitored by the mobile photo radar system, but only about 5.6 percent of motorists were found to be speeding aggressively. That's down from an aggressive speeding rate of nearly 31 percent in July 2001, when the program first started. Finally, in less than two months, the daily number of aggressive speeders in the 600 block of Florida Avenue, NE—the site of the MPDC's first stationary photo radar camera—has been cut by 45 percent. During the 30-day warning period at that camera location, which concluded on March 27, an average of 541 motorists a day were found to be traveling above the threshold speed established for the program. During the first 15 days of actual ticking, the number of aggressive speeders was down to 290 per day. In late February, DC became the first jurisdiction in North America to activate a photo radar speeding reduction camera in a stationary location, operating 24 hours a day in front of Gallaudet University, the nation's premier school for deaf and hard-of-hearing students.

NEWS & NOTES

Upcoming Major Events. The MPDC will be fully deployed for two major events occurring in DC during the next week: the Spring Meetings of the International Monetary Fund and World Bank Group (April 24-25) and NARAL's March for Women's Lives (April 25). The MPDC will have sufficient personnel and other resources to manage these events, while maintaining its neighborhood patrols throughout the city. For more information about the Department's preparations, check the MPDC website over the coming week.

MPDC Mourns Death of K-9 Member. The MPDC family is mourning the loss of Jackson, a six-year veteran narcotics K-9, who died this past week in a traffic accident when his handler struck a tree after being forced to swerve his police cruiser to avoid another vehicle that had crossed into the officer's lane. Details at <http://www.mpdcc.org/blue/news.asp?sid=2653>.

① Learn more about the Open-Air MiniStations by visiting:
<http://mpdc.dc.gov/serv/programs/ministationfaq.shtm>

① To request the temporary placement of an Open-Air MiniStation in your community, contact your local police district. To find out what police district and police service area you live in, go to:
<http://mpdc.dc.gov/info/districts/districts.shtm>

① For more results and other information about DC's photo enforcement programs, visit the Traffic Safety page at:
<http://mpdc.dc.gov/info/traffic/traffic.shtm>

① As the MPDC looks to expand its photo enforcement traffic safety program, residents are invited to submit recommendations for new sites for red-light and photo radar (both mobile and stationary) cameras. Contact Lt. Patrick Burke, the MPDC's Traffic Safety Coordinator, at (202) 727-4315 or via email at pburke@mpdc.org

DATA BOX

Homicides (as of 4/16/04)

- 2004: 50
- 2003: 74
- % Change: -32.4.9%
- Closure Rate: 56% (28 closures)

Adult Arrests (week end. 4/10/04)

- Total: 1,048
- Drugs: 149
- Weapons: 28
- Motor Vehicle Theft: 6
- Prostitution/Sex Offenses: 110

Firearm Recoveries (as of 4/13/04)

- April: 52
- 2004 Total: 611

Traffic Fatalities (as of 4/13/04)

- 2004: 18
- 2003: 14
- % Change: +28.6%

Information, ideas, or comments about this service? Send an e-mail to **KEVIN MORISON**, MPDC's Director of Corporate Communications, at kevin.morison@dc.gov. Would you like to have this information e-mailed to you? Just go to our Website and register with **Crimereports.com**.

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